## A Citation for Mrs Angela Cheung Wong Wan-yiu, MBE, JP

# Doctor of Education, honoris causa



Mr Chairman of the Council,

In the 1960's, a university degree was a passport to a good job. Only a small number of university graduates in those days entering the teaching profession, felt it necessary to spend an extra year studying for a postgraduate diploma in education. Those who did, were obviously well prepared and committed to education. Mrs Angela Cheung Wong Wan-yiu was one of the few and she has both demonstrated her commitment to the Hong Kong education community over the past 40 years and has significantly contributed in so many ways to the development of Hong Kong's education system.

Mrs Cheung's own happy and rewarding school days laid the foundations for her love of education. Upon graduating from the University of Hong Kong in the early 1960's, Mrs Cheung started her career as a teacher at St Stephen's Girls' College where one of her colleagues was a young History teacher. That colleague, Dr Alice Lam, is with us today at this ceremony. In 1972, Mrs Cheung was promoted to the position of Vice Principal of this prestigious College. She was the first Chinese appointment at this level.

In 1979, Mrs Cheung further broadened her career in educational administration when she was appointed the Educational Services Secretary of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Hong Kong's oldest and largest community-based philanthropic organisation and school sponsoring body. Through her solid understanding of education and her good administrative skills, Mrs Cheung initiated and implemented many changes in the Group's schools. Believing that education is a service to people, Mrs Cheung also became involved in setting up schools for different sectors within the community. During those years when Mrs Cheung was at the helm of Tung Wah's educational services, the Group established schools for mentally handicapped and less academically-inclined students; it started kindergartens which offered quality services at affordable fees in large housing estates to serve the needs of Hong Kong's ordinary families; and it was the first organisation to set up schools in Tuen Mun. This was at a time when that district was remote and difficult to access from the rest of Hong Kong. It was also the first organisation to launch the service of education psychologists in schools.

Throughout her 18 years of service with Tung Wah, Mrs Cheung, with remarkable foresight and vigour, planned and supervised the establishment of 32 new schools, ranging from kindergartens, primary and secondary to special, prevocational and practical schools, together with the introduction of inclusive education. Many of these schools were new to the Hong Kong educational system and Mrs Cheung was a pioneer in this regard. She utilised the Government's policy of "government-subvented, voluntary-agency operated" to achieve the provision of quality schooling for different sectors and for those who were less advantaged. These schools diversified, modernised and, significantly improved the school system of Hong Kong.

Mrs Cheung has served on many educational bodies and commands great respect in the education community. For the greater part of the 1990's, she was a member of the Education Commission and was instrumental in developing the Education Commission's Report No. 5 in 1992 which recommended the disestablishment of the Colleges of Education and the establishment of this Institute which is recognising her achievements today. She

was also involved in the formulation of the Education Commission's Report No. 6 on the strategies of enhancing students' language proficiency and Report No. 7 on the improvement of quality of schools. She has also been Chairman of the Hong Kong Council for Educational Administration. In recognition of her outstanding community services and accomplishments, Mrs Cheung was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1991 and awarded an MBE in 1997.

Speaking on behalf of the Institute and for myself, Mrs Cheung is much more than a well-regarded educational administrator. She is a catalyst for change, a true friend and a valued colleague. I have been particularly privileged to have had Mrs Cheung as a member of the Institute's Council during my term as Chairman. After joining the Council in 1996, she was asked to assume a diverse range of important responsibilities. These included the recruitment of the Institute's Presidents; the planning, design and construction of an early childhood learning centre and the HKIEd Jockey Club Primary School, among many other high profile and challenging tasks. Mrs Cheung at all times carried out her responsibilities with a profound sense of duty and sensibility as well as her characteristic cheerfulness and good humour. Her insight, her genuine concern for people and her selfless devotion has helped the Institute achieve its goals, always with the minimum of fuss.

Without Mrs Cheung's professionalism, her meticulous attention to detail and her ability to handle a myriad of complex issues, the Institute's exciting initiatives in establishing an early childhood learning centre and a primary school would never have happened. Under Mrs Cheung's guidance, the HKIEd Jockey Club Primary School was awarded the Hong Kong Institute of Architects' Medal of the Year in 2002. Both the Early Childhood Learning Center and the Primary School have won praise from parents and they enjoy an enviable reputation within the community.

Everyone who has had the opportunity to work with Mrs Cheung cannot help but be inspired by her sincerity, her vitality and her deep love for her work. A staff member at the Tung Wah Group who worked with Mrs Cheung for many years commented that:

"she is an efficient administrator and a caring mentor,...her perseverance, warmth and vision motivated us to excel..."

The high respect that Mrs Cheung has earned does not come overnight. Over the past four decades, Mrs Cheung has tirelessly devoted herself to improving the quality of Hong Kong's education. And there are no signs of her slowing down. She is, at present, Chairman of School Council of the Hong Kong Council for Church of Christ in China and education consultant of Yew Chung Education Foundation; Vice Chairman of the Council for Early Childhood Education and Services; and supervisor and manager of a number of schools, including Ying Wa Girls' School where she completed her primary and secondary education. She is also Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute's school sponsoring body.

Mrs Angela Cheung has demonstrated to us that education is for making a life, not a living. She is a role model for everyone involved in education to emulate. Mr Chairman, it is my great honour and personal pleasure to present Mrs Angela Cheung for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

# A Citation for Mr Li Yuet-ting, CBE, JP

# Doctor of Education, honoris causa



Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour and pleasure to present Mr Li Yuet-ting, who has devoted a major part of his career as a civil servant in shaping and building the education system of Hong Kong.

In 1987, Mr Li became the first Director of Education to be promoted from the local rank and file of the Education Department, after serving the education sector for close to three decades.

Mr Li joined the Government as an Assistant Education Officer in 1960, teaching in Clementi Middle School . He later worked in various administrative posts, including the Examination Division and the Planning and Research Division of the Education Department, and was promoted to Assistant Director in 1979, Deputy Director in 1984, and, finally, Director of Education in 1987.

Mr Li worked in an era in which Hong Kong was rapidly upgrading and expanding its provision in basic education amidst a relatively resource-stringent environment. On the one hand, he had to represent the Education Department to solicit resource support from the Government and, on the other, to meet the ever-growing demands of stakeholders. In the face of these formidable challenges, he became well known in the education community for his innovative solutions to problems. Hence, he was nicknamed the "Master of Strategies", a tribute to his creative yet pragmatic ideas such as the development of direct subsidy schools, which often emerged from his habit of pipe-smoking.

Mr Li was pivotal in the implementation of nine-year compulsory education in Hong Kong. This was a most challenging exercise as the Government had to find an additional 25% of school places. Planning to meet the demand for senior secondary education and for trained teachers was another area in which he developed great expertise.

Most of the pioneer information systems used today from primary to tertiary levels were directly or indirectly of his making. These include the Primary One Admission System (POA), the Secondary School Places Allocation System (SSPA), the Junior Secondary Education Assessment System (JSEA), the Sixth Form Allocation System and the Joint University Programmes Admission System (JUPAS).

Mr Li's strategic vision and excellent planning skills made a definitive contribution to the expanding provision of education in Hong Kong.

Ladies and gentlemen, on this occasion, it is my pleasure to highlight Mr Li's direct contribution to and influence on the development of the Hong Kong Institute of Education during its formative years.

In the early 1990s, with the expansion of post-secondary education and the decline in attractiveness of the Colleges of Education to secondary school graduates, Mr Li played a key role in drawing up the Education Commission Report No. 5. This eventually led to the establishment of the autonomous Hong Kong Institute of Education, amalgamating the five Colleges of Education which had been under the jurisdiction of the Education Department.

In contradiction of the then common perception that primary school teachers do not require a degree to teach, he initiated the establishment of graduate posts in primary schools. This has since resulted in the significant increase in the proportion of degree-holding teachers in primary schools to 70% today. Fellow graduates, this part is the history which is particularly relevant to you as Mr Li was one of a few policy makers in Hong Kong who contributed to the decision that led to who you have become today!

As a senior government official, Mr Li inevitably ran into many difficult situations or confrontations with stakeholders in the education field, including school sponsoring bodies and unions. But Mr Li's no-nonsense approach, caring attitude and hands-on involvement in education matters earned him many commendations from the "players" in the field: The Archbishop Peter Kwong of the Hong Kong Anglican Church called Mr Li an "insider" in the education field. Leaders of the Professional Teachers' Union Mr Szeto Wah and The Honourable Cheung Man-kwong called him a "good partner" even though they were often on opposite sides of the fence. In my humble way as a leader of the Education Department Staff Unions in the 1970s and 1980s, I personally shared the same respect for Mr Li.

Since his retirement in 1992, Mr Li has actively contributed to community services in education. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong in April 2000. He also performed an advisory role in the Outstanding Schools Awards Adjudication Panel and the International Network for Educational Improvement. With a heart devoted to the betterment of the Education System in Hong Kong, he continues to offer his expert advice to the Education and Manpower Bureau on matters relating to Education Reform.

All who worked with Mr Li, knew him as a leader who inspires and he brought out the best of each member in his team through guidance and empowerment. He enjoyed brain-storming sessions with his subordinates, always carrying with him an open mind alongside his smoking pipe. He often asked for a "ten-minute" chat with his colleagues after office hours about an idea he just couldn't wait to share. More often than not, the "ten minutes" turned out to be counted by the shortest arm of the clock! In his leisure time, he also loved to join staff gatherings and shared with his colleagues the lighter moments of life.

Mr Chairman, as a retired civil servant, having served the Education Department for decades, I feel doubly honoured to have the opportunity to share my admiration for Mr Li, my colleague in the Government, my mentor and my life-long friend. I am proud to be affiliated with such an honourable man who has dedicated his long career to our younger generation. Without his wisdom and foresight, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and for that matter, the Education System of Hong Kong would not rest on such solid ground. With his continued support in the years to come, I am sure that the outlook for the Hong Kong Institute of Education will be most auspicious. May I present Mr Li Yuet-ting and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa.

#### A Citation for Lord Stewart Sutherland, KT, FBA, FRSE

## Doctor of Education, honoris causa



Mr Chairman of the Council,

Lord Stewart Sutherland was born in 1941 in Aberdeen, Scotland. He studied at Robert Gordon's College, the University of Aberdeen and subsequently Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, where he obtained his Master degrees.

He started his academic career by teaching at the University College of North Wales and then went on to the University of Stirling where he received a series of promotions and became Reader. A year later, at the tender age of 36, he was appointed as Chair of History and Philosophy of Religion at the King's College, London. He later became the Principal of King's College, Vice Chancellor of the University of London, and Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh. These prominent appointments all speak of Lord Sutherland's extraordinary achievements in the tertiary sector.

However, his achievements have not been limited to the academic domain. He devoted himself to improving the quality of public services, especially for those who were less advantaged. Thus, for example, in 1992 he was the first Chief Inspector of Schools for England and established a system of inspections designed to help schools improve which has achieved international recognition. In 1997, he chaired a commission on behalf of the UK government which advised on the future policies for health care provision of the elderly. His report recommended radical changes designed to ensure that the aging population, and especially those with limited financial means, would be able to readily access free public health care. These recommendations were endorsed and implemented in Scotland.

His interest in Religion and Theology has not been limited to academic scholarship. He was one of the pioneers who promoted the study of Comparative Religion within the religious studies curriculum and that subject is now one of the most exciting and intellectually stimulating subjects that pupils can study in secondary schools. For his public service and contribution to Higher Education in the UK, Lord Sutherland has been recognised. He was knighted in 1994 and appointed to the House of Lords in 2001. He has also received Honorary Degrees from the University of Aberdeen, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Stirling, the University of Wales, the National University of Ireland, the Commonwealth University of Virginia, College of Wooster, Ohio, Richmond College, the University of Uppsala and New York University.

The Hong Kong Institute of Education wishes also to recognise Lord Stewart Sutherland for his contribution to the development of higher education and specifically for his contribution to the development of teacher education in Hong Kong. Lord Sutherland joined Hong Kong's University Grants Committee (UGC) in 1995 and served until 2004. He made a very significant contribution to the development of higher education in Hong Kong. Most notably during his tenure as a UGC member, he chaired the Teacher Education Sub-committee which advised the UGC on all matters relating to teacher education and produced the Review of Teacher Education in 1998. The Teacher Education Sub-committee, under his leadership, also supported the Institute in its early development and I am aware that both my predecessors and I were extremely grateful for the supportive and informed approach which Lord Sutherland brought to that Committee. It was very clear that he understood the complexities involved in upgrading former government Colleges of Education and it was self evident that his priority was to support our development so that we could achieve our mission.

Later between 2001 and 2002, he led the Higher Education Review for the UGC. In the course of the review, he consulted widely and listened carefully to the views of all stakeholders. The review, as set out in the UGC publication entitled "Higher Education in Hong Kong" published in 2002, has provided Hong Kong with a blueprint for the development of its university system.

I have so far concentrated on Lord Sutherland's varied public services and contributions to civil society which have resulted in numerous awards, reports and policy initiatives. What I have not focused on is that aspect which most impresses all those who have had the privilege to work with him. A central theme running through his academic work is the desire to promote an understanding of and tolerance between different religions and between religious believers and non-believers. That is clearly something he has taken to heart as his style of working reflects those beliefs. It is characterised by integrity, wisdom, charm and tolerance. He listens carefully, recognises complexities and accommodates ambiguities. His judgments are shrewd. I cannot tell whether his scholarship has informed his style or vice versa.

Mr Chairman of the Council, I request you to admit Lord Stewart Sutherland to the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa.